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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release SEPTEMBER 2, 1955

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ENDORSES VIGOROUS FISHERY RESEARCH

The vigorous program of fishery research and market development which the Fish and Wildlife Service is undertaking in the current fiscal year has received the strong endorsement of the American Fisheries Advisory Committee, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay said today.

Plans for some 100 projects being financed under the Saltonstall-Kennedy program to promote trade in domestically produced fishery products were outlined to the Advisory Committee at its meetings in Boston on August 25 and 26, Director John L. Farley of the Fish and Wildlife Service informed Secretary McKay.

The Committee of experts from the commercial fishing industry was particularly pleased with the departmental policy of contracting with educational institutions and private research organizations, Director Farley reported.

Of the \$3,000,000 allocated in the first year of the Saltonstall-Kennedy program which ended last June 30, Director Farley said, the Fish and Wildlife Service contracted for \$1,311,000, or about 44 percent of the work, under the program. It is expected that a similar proportion of the program work for the current year will be done outside the Government under auspices of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Director Farley, who substituted for Assistant Secretary Orme Lewis as chairman of the Advisory Committee at the Boston meetings, said the committee reviewed programs totaling some \$2,730,000 for which funds already have been allocated out of the current year's \$3 million Saltonstall-Kennedy Appropriation. Plans for expenditure of the remaining \$270,000 also were discussed, he said.

A report on accomplishments during the first year of the program was presented by Director Farley, A. W. Anderson, Chief, Branch of Commercial Fisheries, and Dr. L. A. Walford, Chief, Branch of Fishery Biology.

The broad policy recommendations adopted by the Committee at its first meeting in Washington were reaffirmed and continuance of the Service's present program was urged.

The Advisory Committee discussed a proposal suggesting that part of the Saltonstall-Kennedy funds be apportioned among the States but advised against this type of apportionment. Instead, the Committee recommended that funds continue to be made available to research organizations on a contract basis for specific types of research and educational and marketing activities as provided for by the Act. At its April meeting, the Committee had recommended against committing funds for major construction projects, a policy which was adopted and has since been followed by the Department.

While in Boston, the members of the Committee were taken on a complete tour of a modern plant processing fish sticks and precooked fish fillets.

Future meetings of the Committee, according to Director Farley, will be scheduled with two ideas in mind: 1. To provide an opportunity for the Committee to study important recent developments in various fish-producing centers of the United States, and 2. To learn at first-hand of problems confronting segments of the domestic fishing industry. The Committee's next meeting will be held at Long Beach, Calif., in the spring of 1956.

The 15 members of the Committee who attended the Boston meeting were: Harold R. Bassett, Salisbury, Md., Lawrence Calvert, Seattle, Wash., James S. Carlson, Boston, Mass., E. M. Concannon, Chicago, Ill., Mark L. Edmunds, Garibaldi, Oreg., David H. Hart, Cape May, N. J., Donald P. Loker, Terminal Island, Calif., Arthur H. Mendonca, San Francisco, Calif., J. Richards Nelson, Madison, Conn., Moses B. Pike, Eastport, Maine, H. F. Sahlman, Fernandina Beach, Fla., Thomas F. Sandoz, Astoria, Oreg., Arthur Sivertson, Duluth, Minn., Lawrence W. Strasburger, New Orleans, La., and George R. Wallace, Morehead City, N. C.

Three members, Leon S. Kenney, St. Petersburg, Fla., Earl B. Webster, Brownsville, Tex., and Alphonse J. Wegmann, Pass Christian Isles, Miss., were unable to attend.

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